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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/081,203	02/25/2002	Tadataka Matsubayashi	500.41226X00	2859
20457	7590	08/20/2004	EXAMINER	
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SUITE 1800				
ARLINGTON, VA 22209-9889				
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2171		

DATE MAILED: 08/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/081,203	MATSUBAYASHI ET AL.
	Examiner Marc R Filipczyk	Art Unit 2171

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2002.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 25 February 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to application filed on February 25, 2002 in which claims 1-9 are presented for examination.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed 2/25/02 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1), which requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Specification

The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the **second** paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 1, 4 and 7, the segment, “compound characteristic word and constituent characteristic words included in the compound characteristic word” is indefinite.

Mathematically, if A=compound, and B=constituent, than A=A+B is invalid unless B=0 which is not what is claimed. Second, “registration document” is indefinite. It is not clear from the claims what a registration document is.

Regarding claims 2, 5 and 8, the phrase, “constituent characteristic words of the characteristic word is registered” is indefinite. It is not clear what the term registered means in the claimed feature.

Regarding claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 depend from 1, 4 and 7 respectively, thus contain the deficiencies of those claims and any other deficiencies stated above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as best as the Examiner is able to ascertain as being anticipated by Noguchi et al. (U.S. Number 5,991,755).

Regarding claims 1, 3 and 7 Noguchi discloses a similar document search method, system, and program for searching for a similar document similar to a specified (seeds) document, comprising (see abstract):

a document analyzer processor for extracting at least one characteristic word candidate as a candidate for a characteristic word from a seeds document including desired retrieval contents (fig. 6, 18);

a characteristic word extractor processor (fig. 6, item 15) for extracting as characteristic words of the seeds document, when the characteristic word candidate extracted by said document analyzer processor is a compound characteristic word including a plurality of characteristic words (col. 10, lines 8-16), the compound characteristic word and constituent characteristic words included in the characteristic word candidate;

(Note: all the steps performed on registered documents are also performed on the seeds document, see col. II, lines 1-4)

a seeds document similarity calculator processor for calculating, according to the characteristic words extracted by said characteristic word extractor processor, similarity between the seeds document and a registration document (fig. 6, item 22); and

a retrieval result output processor for outputting a retrieval result as a result of the similarity calculated by said seeds document similarity calculator processor (fig. 6, item 17).

Regarding claims 2, 4 and 8, Noguchi discloses analyzing a compound characteristic word including a plurality of characteristic words (col. 10, lines 8-16).

Regarding claims 3, 5 and 9, Noguchi discloses a weighting coefficient and calculator for calculating similarity (fig. 6, item 23, col. 9, lines 22-35).

Conclusion

Art Unit: 2171

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc R Filipczyk whose telephone number is 703-305-7156. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MF
August 16, 2004



SAFET METJAHIC
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